



## 2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 520

September 29, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives KREMER, SKOWRONSKI, ALLEN, BERNIER, BRANDTJEN, CROWLEY, DUCHOW, EDMING, FELZKOWSKI, GANNON, HORLACHER, KRUG, MASON, MILROY, MURPHY, MURSAU, NOVAK, OTT, PETRYK, PRONSCHINSKE, QUINN, RIPP, ROHRKASTE, SANFELIPPO, SPIROS, SUBECK, THIESFELDT and TITTL, cosponsored by Senators STROEBEL, CRAIG, MOULTON and MARKLEIN. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 29.194 (1) (b), 29.235 (3m), 29.563 (4) (a) 2s. and 29.563 (4) (b)  
2             2s.; and **to create** 29.001 (14) and 45.13 of the statutes; **relating to:** hunting,  
3             trapping, and fishing approvals issued to recipients of a medal awarded by the  
4             U.S. armed forces that is equal to or higher than the Purple Heart medal in  
5             order of precedence and maintenance of a list of such medals by the Department  
6             of Veterans Affairs.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to treat a nonresident recipient of a U.S. armed forces award that is equal to or higher than the Purple Heart medal in order of precedence as a resident for purposes of issuing hunting, trapping, or fishing approvals. The bill also requires DNR to issue a conservation patron license at a reduced fee to a resident or nonresident applicant who has received a U.S. armed forces award that is equal to or higher than the Purple Heart medal in order of precedence. Under the bill, the Department of Veterans Affairs is required to maintain a list of medals awarded by the U.S. armed forces that are equal to or higher than the Purple Heart medal in order of precedence.

Under current law, DNR must treat a qualified member of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, or the national guard or a nonresident who has received the Purple Heart medal as a resident for purposes of determining the member's eligibility for, and cost of, obtaining hunting, trapping, or fishing

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approvals. Fees for approvals issued to residents are lower than for those issued to nonresidents. This bill expands this treatment to a nonresident who has received a medal awarded by the U.S. armed forces that is equal to or higher than the Purple Heart medal in order of precedence.

Under current law, a conservation patron license confers a number of hunting, trapping, and fishing privileges and allows free vehicle admission to state parks and related areas. Under current law, DNR must issue a conservation patron license at a reduced fee to a resident or nonresident applicant who has received a Purple Heart medal. This bill expands this requirement to a resident or nonresident applicant who has received a medal awarded by the U.S. armed forces that is equal to or higher in order of precedence than the Purple Heart medal.

Under this bill, for purposes of a DNR determination of whether a person is a qualified recipient of a U.S. armed forces medal, verification by a county veteran services office is sufficient proof that a person has received an armed forces medal.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 29.001 (14) of the statutes is created to read:

2           29.001 (14) “Armed forces medal” means the Purple Heart medal or other  
3 medal awarded by the U.S. armed forces that is equal to or higher than the Purple  
4 Heart medal in order of precedence.

5           **SECTION 2.** 29.194 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           29.194 (1) (b) The department shall treat a qualified recipient of ~~a purple heart~~  
7 an armed forces medal, a qualified member of the armed forces, a qualified member  
8 of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, or a qualified member of the national guard  
9 as a resident for purposes of determining the person’s eligibility for and cost of  
10 obtaining a hunting, trapping, or fishing approval under this chapter, except for a  
11 conservation patron license issued under s. 29.235 (3m). A qualified recipient of ~~a~~  
12 purple heart an armed forces medal is a person who is not a resident who exhibits  
13 proof that he or she has received ~~a purple heart~~ an armed forces medal. Verification

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1 by a county veteran services office is sufficient proof that a person has received an  
2 armed forces medal. A qualified member of the armed forces is a person who exhibits  
3 proof that he or she is in active service in the U.S. armed forces or in forces  
4 incorporated in the U.S. armed forces and that he or she is stationed in this state.  
5 A qualified member of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces is a person who exhibits  
6 proof that he or she is a member of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces located in  
7 this state. A qualified member of the national guard is a person who exhibits proof  
8 that he or she is a member of the Wisconsin national guard.

9 **SECTION 3.** 29.235 (3m) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 29.235 (3m) ~~PURPLE HEART~~ ARMED FORCES MEDAL CONSERVATION PATRON LICENSE.

11 The department shall issue a resident conservation patron license at the reduced fee  
12 under s. 29.563 (4) (a) 2s. to any resident applying for this license who exhibits proof  
13 that he or she has received ~~a purple heart~~ an armed forces medal. Verification by  
14 a county veteran services office is sufficient proof that a person has received an  
15 armed forces medal. The department shall issue a nonresident conservation patron  
16 license at the reduced fee under s. 29.563 (4) (b) 2s. to any person applying for this  
17 license who is not a resident and who exhibits proof that he or she has received ~~a~~  
18 ~~purple heart~~ an armed forces medal.

19 **SECTION 4.** 29.563 (4) (a) 2s. of the statutes is amended to read:

20 29.563 (4) (a) 2s. Conservation patron issued under s. 29.235 (3m) to a recipient  
21 of the ~~purple heart~~ an armed forces medal: \$9.25 or a greater amount at the  
22 applicant's option.

23 **SECTION 5.** 29.563 (4) (b) 2s. of the statutes is amended to read:

